



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 24, 1994

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *aa*

RE: Site Inspection, Golden Eagle Mining, Inc., Yerian Mine, S/047/034, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 19, 1994
Time of Inspection: 8:44 - 10:05
Conditions: Fair, light breeze from the south
Participants: Jerry Fitzen, Golden Eagle Mining, Inc.; DJ Beaupeurt-Schantz, Vernal BLM; and Tony Gallegos, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To discuss the possible encroachment onto BLM lands by operations and discuss the Division's concern with the disturbed area exceeding five acres at the site.

Mr. Jerry Fitzen met us at the cable gate, which is currently locked to prevent access to the site. We first discussed the issue of encroachment on the BLM lands. The BLM had staked the property boundary with several stakes and flagging. It appears that there were some older disturbances on BLM ground probably created by the previous operator at the Yerian site, being Dennis Setliff, who is no longer working at this site.

The BLM met with Mr. Andy Babiy and BLM personnel some weeks ago, where it seemed Mr. Babiy agreed they would reclaim those disturbances which had been created on BLM land. The gravel stockpile which had originally been assumed to be on BLM ground, does not cross the property border. DJ mentioned that the BLM would be sending a letter to Mr. Andy Babiy and copying it to Jerry Fitzen. That letter would describe the work to be done and also include a map showing the areas of disturbance which they would like the operator to reclaim. After that, the BLM and the operator could take the discussion from there as to what could be accomplished at the site.

The BLM has concerns with some berms, which had been constructed near the main cable gate. The berms go from the private land onto the BLM land. The berms were constructed without prior approval. The berms were constructed to prevent public access and minimize vandalism of equipment on the site. Mr. Fitzen indicated the berms had been created sometime last fall. DJ mentioned that the operator may need to reclaim the berms. There may be the option of obtaining some type of conditional use permit from the BLM allowing the berms to remain. She agreed to discuss the situation with her supervisor. Because of the flat terrain, it is difficult to prevent access



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to the site. However, it was suggested that Mr. Fitzen could possibly create these berms for a longer distance on the private property and still achieve the same results.

We then proceeded on to the site with Mr. Fitzen. We first stopped at the main process area. The area appears to have been inactive for some time. There are birds nesting in the conveyor booms. There is currently a dozer and front end loader, along with a generator plant and another plant on the site. The conveying, crushing, and screening structures are also still in place.

I discussed the Division's concern about the site exceeding five acres in disturbance and the possibility of reclaiming some of those areas with Mr. Fitzen. It was felt that if the operator is going to be performing some reclamation for the BLM, it may be a good time to perform some reclamation of areas on private ground they would no longer need to operate in. The preferred time for performing reclamation would be in the fall. BLM requires that seeding be done sometime after September 15th.

Mr. Fitzen mentioned that the areas to the west of the crushing/screening/conveying plant could be reclaimed, since they have no current plans to mine in that area. The disturbances in that area consist of some trench like excavations and several mounds of cobbles/gravels and sands. The Division would like the trenches and mounds regraded to a slope of 3:1. The Division is aware of the lease agreement requiring the operator to leave cobble or gravel piles on site. However, we would ask that the slopes of these piles be graded to something less than angle of repose; just in case they are left for a longer period of time. These lower angle slopes would then be conducive to natural invasion by vegetation. Mr. Fitzen indicated he would mention this to Andy Babiy who would make the final decisions, along with considering the BLM's proposals for reclamation. Several photographs were taken of the processing area.

We next proceeded to the pump station, along the banks of the Green River. The pump is currently in place with the intake floating in the river. The water seems to be at a high level at the present time. Photographs were taken of the pump station to show the general status. I informed Mr. Fitzen that we would be sending a copy of the inspection memo to Mr. Andy Babiy. He requested that we also send him a copy, as well as the BLM. The BLM was also to send us a copy of their letter and map to the operator, describing their preferred reclamation at the site. Photos were taken of the disturbed area on private ground which could be reclaimed by the operator.

jb
cc: Andy Babiy, Golden Eagle Mining
Jerry Fitzen, Golden Eagle Mining
DJ Beaupreurt-Schantz, BLM, Vernal DO
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